

For the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 6.2 million degrees by 2030.<sup>1</sup>

## FAST FACTS

### STATE RANKING:

Colorado had the **8th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

### K-12 POPULATION:

In Colorado, **31%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.<sup>2</sup>

### POPULATION:

In Colorado, **22%** of the population was **Latino**.<sup>2</sup>

### MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Colorado was **29**, compared to **41** for **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>2</sup>



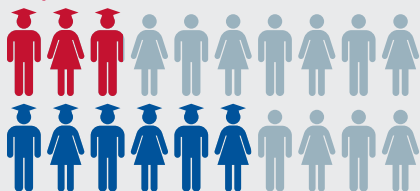
### ENROLLMENT:

In Colorado, **18%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **21%** of **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>2</sup>

### DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Colorado, **28%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **59%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.<sup>2</sup>

**Hispanic Adults = 2.8 of 10**



**White Adults = 5.9 of 10**

To reach the degree attainment goal by 2030, the U.S. can: close the degree completion gap by accelerating Latino completion while increasing for all students and scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino, and all, students. The following demographics, institutional data, and practices inform Latino degree attainment.

### ENROLLING: Top 5 Institutions (Hispanic Undergraduates) in Colorado, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Metropolitan State University of Denver	Public, 4-year	15,625	5,198	33%
2	University of Colorado Boulder	Public, 4-year	30,414	4,042	13%
3	Colorado State University-Fort Collins	Public, 4-year	24,344	3,727	15%
4	University of Colorado Denver/Anschutz Medical Campus	Public, 4-year	11,042	2,799	25%
5	Front Range Community College	Public, 4-year	11,436	2,795	24%

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in Colorado, 2020-21

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Front Range Community College	Public, 4-year	1,831	337	18%
2	Pikes Peak Community College	Public, 4-year	1,665	318	19%
3	Aims Community College	Public, 2-year	660	222	34%
4	Community College of Denver	Public, 4-year	715	216	30%
5	Pueblo Community College	Public, 4-year	723	213	29%

### BACHELOR DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in Colorado, 2020-21

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Colorado Boulder	Public, 4-year	6,753	840	12%
2	Metropolitan State University of Denver	Public, 4-year	3,100	791	26%
3	Colorado State University-Fort Collins	Public, 4-year	5,195	745	14%
4	University of Colorado Denver/Anschutz Medical Campus	Public, 4-year	2,786	571	20%
5	University of Northern Colorado	Public, 4-year	1,945	393	20%

NOTE: We use the terms Latino and Hispanic interchangeably in this factsheet.

Source: *Excelencia in Education* analysis using U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 2021 Fall Enrollment, Graduation Rates Survey and Institutional Characteristics Survey.

<sup>1</sup> Projections to 2030: *Excelencia in Education*. (2020). Ensuring America's Future: Benchmarking Latino College Completion to 2030. *Excelencia in Education*. Washington, D.C.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

# Colorado Gap in Degree Completion

Closing the degree completion gap can be tracked by the 4 measures shown below. Alone, none of these measures capture the entire “story” of degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the gap in degree attainment between Hispanic and White non-Hispanic cohorts in a single year.

**Graduation Rate** — Total percentage of students who graduated within 150% of normal time for first-time, full-time freshmen. This incorporates students that graduated in 3 years at two-year institutions, or in 6 years at four-year institutions.

**Transferred to Another Institution** — Percentage of students that transferred to another institution and did not complete a degree.

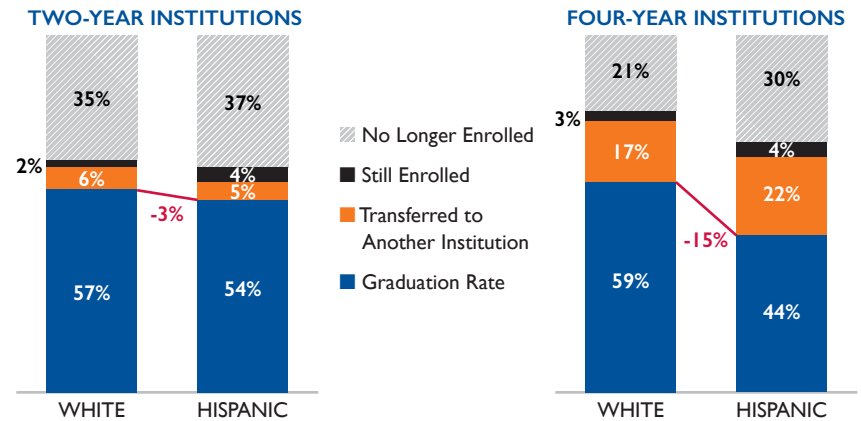
**Still Enrolled** — Percentage of students that are still enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

**No Longer Enrolled** — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

DEGREE OUTCOMES

At two-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **3%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Colorado.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **15%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Colorado.



\*Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

NOTE: Outcomes shown are for students at two-year institutions who started in Fall 2018, and for students at four-year institutions who started in Fall 2015.

Source: *Excelencia in Education* analysis using the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2021 Graduation Rates Survey and the Institutional Characteristics Survey.

## Examples of What Works for Latino Students

There are institutions showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following are examples of programs across the country with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of *Excelencia*.

The **CUMBRES Teacher Preparation Program** at University of Northern Colorado (UNC) is a scholarship and support program for students who are planning to become English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers. Cumbres recruits, supports, and mentors undergraduate students who pursue a degree in education and who also declare an endorsement in English as a Second Language (ESL) to work and teach culturally and linguistically diverse students in K-12 education. Students are offered scholarships to ensure persistence in the program. Cumbres is grounded in three high-impact educational practices designed to bridge the service gaps for Latinx and all program participants: (1) Residential Community — During their freshman year, participants live in a residential community. An upper-classman Resident Assistant (RA) who is also a Cumbres student serves as a mentor and tutor to students to provide meaningful, ongoing support; (2) Learning Community — As part of their general education requirements, participants take classes

together with their Cumbres cohort. This allows students to be in classes with their residential community to build a community that supports each other academically and socially; and, (3) Mentorship: First-year participants (including transfer and non-traditional students) meet with a peer academic advisor and a mentor teacher in K-12 education.

Latinos represent 40% of Cumbres Teacher preparation program participants, significantly higher than the institution's overall Latino enrollment rate. As of July 2017, 328 students have graduated from the Cumbres program, 56% of them identifying as Latino. In 2020, 61% (14 of 23) of participants who began the program in the 2014 cohort graduated within six years. In comparison, 50% of all students at UNC graduate within six years. Each year, approximately 90% of participants secure ESL teaching positions in K-12 either prior to graduation or before the start of the next K-12 school year or term.

For more information on institutional programs improving Latino student success in higher education, access *Excelencia in Education's Growing What Works* database at <http://www.edexcelencia.org/growing-what-works>